

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 02205 282023Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 ERDA-05 OES-03 FEA-01 /077 W

----- 101851

R 281607Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7808

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 2205

DEPT PLEASE REPEAT TO ALL OPEC CAPITALS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE ANNOUNCES MEETING BETWEEN  
PRESIDENT PEREZ AND FIDEL CASTRO

1. CARACAS PRESS FEBRUARY 28 CARRIES AFP REPORT THAT ON FEB. 27  
THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE, JOSE LUIS SALCEDO BASTARDO,  
ANNOUNCED IN PARIS THAT PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ AND CUBAN  
PRIME MINISTER FEDEL CASTRO WOULD MEET IN CARACAS IN JULY. THIS

AFP REPORT ALSO QUOTES AMBASSADOR SALCEDO AS SAYING THAT:

QUOTE THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN CONNECTION WITH THE MEETING  
OF CHIEFS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF LATIN AMERICA WHICH, AT THE  
INITIATIVE OF MY COUNTRY, WILL TAKE PLACE IN CARACAS NEXT JULY.

QUOTE THIS INITIATIVE AROSE DURING THE LAST LATIN AMERICAN  
HEADS OF STATE MEETING, WHICH TOOK PLACE RECENTLY IN LIMA TO  
COMMEMORATE THE BATTLE OF AYACUCHO.

QUOTE ON THAT OCCASION ALL OF THE COUNTRIES PRESENT, EXCEPT  
CHILE, WHICH HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT CUBA'S ATTENDANCE AT THE  
CARACAS HEADS OF STATE MEETING, APPROVED THE IDEA... ALTHOUGH  
RESPECTABLE, THE POSITION TOWARD CUBA OF THE CHILEAN DELEGATION  
LEFT THE LATTER IN AN ISOLATED (SOLITARIO) SITUATION. END QUOTE

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PAGE 02 CARACA 02205 282023Z

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE ARE UNSURE WHY THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE WOULD TAKE IT UPON HIMSELF TO MAKE SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT, WE NOTE THAT VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER RAMON ESCOVAR SALOM PASSED THROUGH PARIS ON FEBRUARY 27 ENROUTE TO THE OPEC SUMMIT MEETING IN ALGIERS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SALCEDO'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF A PEREZ-CASTRO MEETING MAY BE INTENDED TO STRENGTHEN THE PRESTIGE AMONG THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES OF PRESIDENT PEREZ, WHO IS ABOUT TO ATTEND THE OPEC SUMMIT MEETING IN ALGIERS.

MCCLINTOCK

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Subject:** VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE ANNOUNCES MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT PEREZ AND FIDEL CASTRO  
**TAGS:** PFOR, VE, CU, (CASTRO, FIDEL), (SALCEDO BASTARDO, JOSE LUIS), (PEREZ, CARLOS ANDRES)  
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